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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<i>Office Action Summary</i>	Application No. 10/552,068	Applicant(s) KADOWAKI, TOSHIHIRO
	Examiner QIAN YANG	Art Unit 4112

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
 Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS,
 WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 4 Oct. 2005.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 04 October 2005 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-946)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No./Mail Date 27/2007.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No./Mail Date _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. The claim 21 is talked about a computer program. It could be interpreted as computer signal. Therefore it is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is non-statutory.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1- 8, 10, 12, 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kadowaki (US Patent Application Publication 2002/0126322).

Regarding claim 1, Kadowaki discloses an image processing apparatus. Specially, Kadowaki discloses an image reading apparatus (image processing apparatus) comprising:

image reading unit, arranged to read an image on an original and output image data thereof (Fig. 1 #9 image reading unit);
connecting unit, arranged to connect to at least one external service providing at least

one service for the image data output from said image reading unit via a network (Fig. 1 #2 network);
personalized service information acquiring unit, arranged to acquire personalized service information for personalizing the service so that an operator can use the service (Fig. 1, #21 ID card reader);
personalizing unit, arranged to personalize a setting screen (Fig. 4-8), a setting procedure, and contents of setting for the operator according to the acquired personalized service information (described in paragraph 0073-0091); and transmitting unit, arranged to transmit various settings based on the setting screen, setting procedure, and contents of setting personalized for the operator by said personalizing unit, together with the image data via the network to the external service (Fig. 1 #7 external interface).

Regarding claim 2, Kadowaki discloses everything as stated above (see claim 1), wherein said personalized service information acquiring unit comprises:
reading unit (Fig. 1, #21 ID card reader), arranged to read operator identification information and the personalized service information corresponding to the operator from a detachable storage medium (described in paragraph 0053); and identification unit, arranged to identify the operator according to the operator identification information read from the storage medium (described in paragraph 0103,
"The user ID information is information for identifying

individual users. The information is given as, e.g., 00001 for a user A and 00002 for a user B").

Regarding claim 3, Kadowaki discloses everything as stated above (see claim 1), wherein said personalized service information acquiring unit comprises: wireless communication unit, arranged to communicate with a storage medium capable of carrying out wireless communication, the storage medium storing operator identification information and the personalized service information corresponding to the operator (described in paragraph 0181, "In addition, those apparatus may be interconnected wirelessly rather than using wires."); and identification unit, arranged to identify the operator according to the operator identification information stored in the storage medium (described in paragraph 0053, "The ID card reader 21 is used to read data stored in an ID card possessed by individual users and to take in ID information").

Regarding claim 4, Kadowaki discloses everything as stated above (see claim 1), wherein an external server (Fig. 1, #3 server) holding personalized service information associated with respective operator identification information is connected to the network, and said personalized service information acquiring unit transmits operator identification information to the external server via the network (described in paragraph 0107), and acquires personalized service information corresponding to the transmitted operator identification information from the external server (described in paragraph

0048, "Individual setting information, described later, is transmitted and received between the facsimile 1 and the server 3 via the network 2").

Regarding claim 5, Kadowaki discloses everything as stated above (see claim 1), wherein an external server holding personalized service information associated with respective operator identification information and respective apparatus identification information (described in paragraph 0108, "a common server for storing the individual setting information by copying machines, facsimiles and printers, and further take out the individual setting information specific to each machine group") is connected to the network, and said personalized service information acquiring unit transmits operator identification information and apparatus identification information to the external server via the network, and acquires personalized service information corresponding to the transmitted operator identification information and apparatus identification information from the external server (described in paragraph 0149-150).

Regarding claim 6, Kadowaki discloses everything as stated above (see claim 4), wherein the external service comprises a plurality of external services existing on the Internet, and the external server exists on an intranet (described in paragraph 0181).

Regarding claim 7, Kadowaki discloses everything as stated above (see claim 1),

wherein the personalized service information includes identification information on services to be used by the operator, and defaults of various settings for the services to be used (described in paragraph 0010).

Regarding claim 8, Kadowaki discloses everything as stated above (see claim 1), wherein the personalized service information includes identification information on services to be used by the operator, and setting values which can be set by the operator for the services to be used (Fig. 4 – 7).

Regarding claim 10, Kadowaki discloses everything as stated above (see claim 1), wherein the personalized service information includes identification information on services to be used by the operator, and setting values which can be used by the operator for the services to be used (described in paragraph 0175, S57).

Regarding claim 12, Kadowaki discloses everything as stated above (see claim 1), wherein the external service is inhibited from being used when said personalizing unit omits personalization of the service to be used (described in paragraph 0175, S55).

Regarding claim 17, Kadowaki discloses everything as stated above (see claim 1), wherein the personalized service information includes part of authentication data to be used for user authentication when the operator uses the service (described in paragraph 0175, S57).

Regarding claim 18, Kadowaki discloses everything as stated above (see claim 1), wherein said personalized service information acquiring unit acquires plural pieces of personalized service information, and said personalizing unit comprises selecting means for selecting a desired service from among services personalized for the operator according to the acquired plural pieces of personalized service information (Fig. 3-7, described in paragraph 0072-0089).

Regarding claim 19, Kadowaki discloses everything as stated above (see claim 18), comprising adding unit, arranged to add various settings as to the service personalized for the operator according to the acquired personalized service information as new personalized service information to the acquired personalized service information (Fig. 7, described in paragraph 0088, "to form a new cover sheet specific to each of individual users").

Regarding claim 20, claim 20 is inherent variation of claim 1 thus it is interpreted and rejected for the reasons set forth above in the rejection of claim 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 9 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kadowaki in view of Horikoshi et al. (US patent 6,823,459), hereinafter referred as Horikoshi.

Regarding claim 9, Kadowaki discloses everything as stated above (see claim 1), wherein the personalized service information includes identification information on services to be used by the operator, and setting values, however, Kadowaki fails to disclose wherein the setting values inhibited from being used for the services to be used.

However, the examiner maintains that it was well known in the art to provide the setting values can be inhibited from being used for the services to be used, as taught by Horikoshi.

In a similar field of endeavor Horikoshi discloses a method for prohibiting unauthorized access in a non-contacting data carrier system. In addition, Horikoshi discloses that the setting values inhibited from being used for the services to be used (described in column 2, line 1-14) for the purpose of prohibiting unauthorized user to read/write sensitive data.

Regarding claim 11, Kadowaki discloses everything as stated above (see claim 1),

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wherein the personalized service information includes identification information to be used by the operator, and setting items, however, Kadowaki fails to disclose wherein the setting items inhibited from being used for the services to be used.

However, the examiner maintains that it was well known in the art to provide the setting items can be inhibited from being used for the services to be used, as taught by Horikoshi.

In a similar field of endeavor Horikoshi discloses a method for prohibiting unauthorized access in a non-contacting data carrier system. In addition, Horikoshi discloses that the setting items inhibited from being used for the services to be used (described in column 2, line 1-14) for the purpose of prohibiting unauthorized user to read/write sensitive items.

Claim 13, 14 -16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kadowaki in view of Shinichi (Japan patent publication 2002-312429).

Regarding claim 13, Kadowaki discloses everything as stated above (see claim 1), wherein the external service provides a print (printer #6) and, however, Kadowaki fails to disclose wherein the external service provides a print and book-binding format for the print and book-binding service.

However, the examiner maintains that it was well known in the art to provide the external service can provide a print and book-binding format for the print and book-binding service, as taught by Shinichi.

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In a similar field of endeavor Shinichi discloses an information management service system. In addition, Shinichi discloses that the external service provide a book-binding format for the print and book-binding service (described in paragraph 0009) for the purpose of providing further service after printing.

Regarding claim 14, Kadowaki discloses everything as stated above (see claim 1), wherein the external services comprise a print and, however, Kadowaki fails to disclose wherein the external service provides a print and book-binding service for the transmitted image data, and said transmitting unit transmits, as the various settings for the external service, settings relating to an address for delivery of a printout obtained by the print and book-binding service.

However, the examiner maintains that it was well known in the art to provide the external service can provide a print and book-binding service for the transmitted image data, and said transmitting unit transmits, as the various settings for the external service, settings relating to an address for delivery of a printout obtained by the print and book-binding service, as taught by Shinichi.

In a similar field of endeavor Shinichi discloses an information management service system. In addition, Shinichi discloses that the external service provide a book-binding service for the transmitted image data, and said transmitting unit transmits, as the various settings for the external service, settings relating to an address for delivery of a printout obtained by the print and book-binding service (described in paragraph 0009,

also described in paragraph 0066-0067) for the purpose of providing further service after printing.

Regarding claim 15, Kadowaki and Shinichi in combination discloses everything as stated above (see claim 14), wherein Kadowaki further discloses the personalized service information includes information indicative of an address of the operator as the address for delivery (described in paragraph 0147, "The network address 102-1 of the destination is given by the network address of a personal computer possessed by each user which is read out of the ID card").

Regarding claim 16, Kadowaki and Shinichi in combination disclose everything as stated above (see claim 14), Shinichi further discloses wherein the personalized service information includes information indicative of the operator as who is to be charged for the service (described in paragraph 0067-0068) for the purpose of performing a complete service for the print, bookbinding and delivery.

Claim 21, 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kadowaki.

Regarding claims 21, 22, claims 21 and 22 are obvious variations of claim 1 thus they are interpreted and rejected for the reasons set forth above in the rejection of claim 1.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to QIAN YANG whose telephone number is (571)270-7239. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00-16:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeff Harold can be reached on 5712727519. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/QIAN YANG/
Examiner, Art Unit 4112

/Q. Y./
Examiner, Art Unit 4112

/Tse Chen/
Primary Examiner